16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document

Pg 1 of 63 Presentment Date and Time: October 3, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) Objection Deadline: September 30, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) Hearing Date and Time (Only if Objection Filed): October 6, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP 767 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10153 Telephone: (212) 310-8000 Facsimile: (212) 310-8007 Ray C. Schrock, P.C. Jacqueline Marcus Garrett A. Fail

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X

In re : Chapter 11

AÉROPOSTALE, INC., et al., : Case No. 16-11275 (SHL)

:

Debtors. 1 : Jointly Administered

:

-----X

NOTICE OF PRESENTMENT OF DEBTORS' APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a) AND 363(b) (I) AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION AND EMPLOYMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS, INC. AND (II) DESIGNATING WILLIAM A. BRANDT, JR. AS CHIEF RESTRUCTURING OFFICER TO THE DEBTORS NUNC PRO TUNC TO SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on October 3, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern

Time), the undersigned will present the annexed application (the "*Application*") to the Honorable Sean H. Lane, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, located at One Bowling Green, New York, New York, 10004 (the "*Bankruptcy Court*").

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases and the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are as follows: Aéropostale, Inc. (3880); Aéropostale West, Inc. (7013); Jimmy'Z Surf Co., LLC (0461); Aero GC Management LLC (4257); Aeropostale Procurement Company, Inc. (8518); Aeropostale Licensing, Inc. (8124); P.S. from Aeropostale, Inc. (5900); GoJane LLC (4923); Aeropostale Holdings, Inc. (7729); and Aeropostale Puerto Rico, Inc. (6477). The Debtors' corporate headquarters is located at 112 West 34th Street, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10120.

WEIL:\95874915\7\11727.0013

_

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any responses or objections ("Objections") to the Application shall be in writing, shall conform to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the Southern District of New York, shall be filed with the Bankruptcy Court (i) by attorneys practicing in the Bankruptcy Court, including attorneys admitted pro hac vice, electronically in accordance with General Order M-399 (which can be found at www.nysb.uscourts.gov), and (ii) by all other parties in interest, on a CD-ROM, in text-searchable portable document format (PDF) (with a hard copy delivered directly to Chambers), in accordance with the customary practices of the Bankruptcy Court and General Order M-399, to the extent applicable, and shall be served in accordance with General Order M-399 and the Order Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 105(a) and (d) and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1015(c), 2002(m) and 9007 Implementing Certain Notice and Case Management Procedures, entered on June 3, 2016 [ECF No. 255], so as to be so filed and received no later than September 30, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) (the "Objection Deadline").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if a written Objection is timely filed and served, a hearing (the "*Hearing*") will be held to consider the Application on October 6, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) before the Honorable Sean H. Lane in the Bankruptcy Court.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if an Objection to the Application is not received by the Objection Deadline, the Bankruptcy Court may enter an order granting the relief sought without further notice.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that objecting parties are required to

attend the Hearing, and failure to appear may result in relief being granted upon default.

Dated: September 26, 2016 New York, New York

/s/ Jacqueline Marcus

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP 767 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10153
Telephone: (212) 310-8000
Facsimile: (212) 310-8007
Ray C. Schrock, P.C.
Jacqueline Marcus
Garrett A. Fail

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 4 of 63

Presentment Date and Time: October 3, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time)
Objection Deadline: September 30, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)
Hearing Date and Time (Only if Objection Filed): October 6, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP 767 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10153 Telephone: (212) 310-8000 Facsimile: (212) 310-8007 Ray C. Schrock, P.C.

Jacqueline Marcus Garrett A. Fail

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X

In re : Chapter 11

AÉROPOSTALE, INC., et al., : Case No. 16-11275 (SHL)

:

Debtors. 1 : Jointly Administered

.....

DEBTORS' APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER PURSURANT TO 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a) AND 363(b) (I) AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION AND EMPLOYMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS, INC. AND (II) DESIGNATING WILLIAM A. BRANDT, JR. AS CHIEF RESTRUCTURING OFFICER TO THE DEBTORS NUNC PRO TUNC TO SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

TO THE HONORABLE SEAN H. LANE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:

Aéropostale, Inc. and certain of its subsidiaries, as debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (collectively, the "*Debtors*"), respectfully represent as follows:

WEIL:\95874915\7\11727.0013

_

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases and the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are as follows: Aéropostale, Inc. (3880); Aéropostale West, Inc. (7013); Jimmy'Z Surf Co., LLC (0461); Aero GC Management LLC (4257); Aeropostale Procurement Company, Inc. (8518); Aeropostale Licensing, Inc. (8124); P.S. from Aeropostale, Inc. (5900); GoJane LLC (4923); Aeropostale Holdings, Inc. (7729); and Aeropostale Puerto Rico, Inc. (6477). The Debtors' corporate headquarters is located at 112 West 34th Street, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10120.

Relief Requested

- 1. The Debtors submit this application (the "Application") pursuant to sections 105(a) and 363(b) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") for an order (i) authorizing the Debtors to employ and retain Development Specialists, Inc. ("DSI") to provide management and restructuring services to the Debtors and to provide a Chief Restructuring Officer and (ii) designating William A. Brandt, Jr. as Chief Restructuring Officer ("CRO") to the Debtors nunc pro tunc to September 19, 2016. In support of this Application, the Debtors submit the Declaration of William A. Brandt, Jr. (the "Brandt Declaration"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 2. A proposed form of order granting the relief requested herein is annexed hereto as **Exhibit B** (the "*Proposed Order*").

Background

- 3. On May 4, 2016 (the "Commencement Date"), each of the Debtors commenced with this Court a voluntary case under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors are authorized to continue to operate their businesses and manage their properties as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. No trustee or examiner has been appointed in these chapter 11 cases.
- 4. The Debtors' chapter 11 cases are being jointly administered for procedural purposes only pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.
- 5. On May 11, 2016, the United States Trustee for Region 2 (the "U.S. Trustee") appointed the statutory committee of unsecured creditors pursuant to section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Creditors' Committee").

6. Additional information regarding the Debtors' business, capital structure, and the circumstances leading to the commencement of these chapter 11 cases is set forth in the Declaration of David J. Dick Pursuant to Rule 1007-2 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the Southern District of New York, sworn to and filed on the Commencement Date [ECF No. 4].

Jurisdiction

7. This Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(a)-(b) and 1334(b) and the Amended Standing Order of Reference M-431, dated January 31, 2012 (Preska, C.J.). This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

DSI's Qualifications

- 8. As set forth in the Brandt Declaration, DSI has a wealth of experience in providing bankruptcy crisis management, consulting, and special financial advisory services. DSI enjoys an excellent reputation for services it has rendered in large and complex chapter 11 cases throughout the United States, on behalf of debtors, creditors, bondholders, investors, and other entities.
- 9. DSI is a financial consulting and management firm with offices throughout the United States, as well as an office in London. DSI provides consulting, liquidating, and management services to bankrupt, insolvent, and reorganizing businesses. DSI operates, manages, and consults "troubled businesses" on behalf of lending institutions, other secured parties, bondholders, shareholder committees, court-approved fiduciaries, and business owners. The firm is experienced in all aspects of insolvency and bankruptcy consulting, and regularly serves as consultants to debtors or trustees in both chapter 7 and chapter 11 proceedings. DSI also frequently lends members of its staff to serve in the role of chapter 7 trustee, chapter 11 trustee, or examiner in a number of matters pending in bankruptcy courts in a

variety of districts and jurisdictions throughout the United States. In the past thirty-five years, members of DSI have accepted appointments as chapter 7 and chapter 11 bankruptcy trustees and examiners and other fiduciary responsibilities in over 8,000 cases throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Canada, and Europe.

- 10. DSI's professionals have provided strategic advice to debtors in numerous chapter 11 cases of similar size and complexity as these chapter 11 cases. DSI's senior members have decades of combined experience in financial consulting and turnaround management.
- 11. Mr. Brandt and his firm have been involved with some of the more celebrated financial restructuring cases in the nation's history, including Mercury Finance Company, Southeast Banking Corporation, Malden Mills, the Keck, Mahin & Cate law firm, the Coudert Brothers law firm, the Ohio "Coin Fund" scandal, and the Bernie Ebbers Settlement Trust.

Scope of Services

- Engagement Letter (the "Engagement Letter"), a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 1 to the Brandt Declaration. Pursuant to the Engagement Letter and subject to approval of this Court, the Debtors appointed Mr. Brandt to serve as CRO of the Debtors. Additional DSI staff will be made available to serve under the CRO during these chapter 11 cases pursuant to the terms of the Engagement Letter. As CRO, Mr. Brandt will report directly to the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Aéropostale, Inc., the ultimate parent of the Debtors.
- 13. As set forth above, Mr. Brandt and DSI have extensive experience in providing restructuring advisory and management services in reorganization proceedings and have an excellent reputation for the services they have rendered in chapter 11 cases on behalf of debtors and creditors throughout the United States. The compensation arrangement reflected in

the attached Engagement Letter is consistent with, and typical of, arrangements entered into by DSI and other restructuring and consulting firms with respect to rendering similar services for clients such as the Debtors.

- 14. Mr. Brandt and DSI are well-qualified and able to continue to provide restructuring management and advisory services to the Debtors in a cost-effective, efficient, and timely manner. The appointment of Mr. Brandt as CRO has been discussed by the Board and will be submitted to the Board for approval. Mr. Brandt has agreed to subject himself to the jurisdiction and supervision of the Court.
- 15. The Debtors require the services of Mr. Brandt and DSI for the following purposes, among others:²
 - (a) Assist the Debtors with the transition under the Court-approved agreements between the Debtors and the members of the consortium that purchased substantially all of the Debtors' business assets, including management of the debtors' rights under and compliance with the applicable purchase agreement, agency agreement and transition services agreement(s).
 - (b) Implement the post-closing, pre-confirmation wind-down of the estates, including reconciliation and resolution of claims and collection of estate assets excluded from the Court-approved purchase.
 - (c) Monitor and otherwise interface with the agent in connection with the store closing sales being conducted by Hilco Merchant Services and Gordon Bros.
 - (d) Oversee the budget process in connection with the Debtors' use of cash collateral and payment of estate liabilities.
 - (e) Assist in the further development and implementation of an amended liquidating chapter 11 plan.

²The summary of the Engagement Letter (and the indemnification provisions contained therein) contained in this Application are provided for explanatory purposes only. In the event of any inconsistency between the summary and the terms and provisions of the Engagement Letter, the Engagement Letter shall control unless otherwise set forth herein.

- (f) Assist with such other matters as may be requested by the Board, the Debtors or the Debtors' outside counsel that fall within DSI's expertise and that are mutually agreeable.
- 16. The CRO will report directly to the Board and shall attend meetings of the Board, as requested from time to time. Further, the CRO will provide the Board with regular updates regarding the Debtors' restructuring process. The additional personnel provided by DSI pursuant to the Engagement Letter shall be supervised by and report to the CRO.
- 17. As part of their continuing efforts to resolve these chapter 11 cases on a consensual basis, the Debtors have agreed to retain a Chief Restructuring Officer acceptable to the various financial institutions and other persons party to that certain Loan and Security Agreement, dated May 23, 2014 (the "*Prepetition Term Loan Lenders*"). The Prepetition Term Loan Lenders have requested the appointment of the CRO, have approved the terms of the Engagement Letter, and support entry of the Proposed Order.
- 18. DSI will coordinate with the Debtors' other retained professionals to avoid the unnecessary duplication of services.

Disinterestedness

19. To the best of the Debtors' knowledge, information and belief, neither DSI nor any professional employee of DSI, has any connection with, holds or represents any interest adverse to the Debtors, their significant creditors, or any other party in interest, or its respective attorneys and accountants, except as may be set forth in the Brandt Declaration. Although the Debtors submit that DSI's retention is not governed by section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors attach the Brandt Declaration to disclose, among other things, any relationship that either the CRO or other professional employees of DSI have with the Debtors, their creditors, or other parties in interest. Based upon the Brandt Declaration, the Debtors submit that each of Mr.

Brandt and DSI is a "disinterested person," as such term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code.

- 20. In addition, DSI will conduct an ongoing review of its files to ensure that no conflicts or other disqualifying circumstances exist or arise. If any new material facts or relationships are discovered or arise, DSI will file a supplemental certification with the Court.
- 21. Based upon the foregoing, the Debtors submit that the relief requested herein is essential, appropriate, and in the best interests of the Debtors' estates and creditors, and therefore, should be granted.

Professional Compensation

22. Pursuant to the terms of the Engagement Letter, the Debtors have agreed to compensate DSI at a fixed rate of \$100,000 per month, payable in advance, for the services of the CRO. The Debtors and DSI further agree that the Debtors will compensate DSI for the hourly services of its additional personnel staffed to this matter. As of the date hereof, the Debtors agree to compensate DSI for the services of additional personnel at the following hourly rates:

Name	Hourly Rate ³		
Fred C. Caruso	\$660.00		
Patrick J. O'Malley	\$595.00		
Joseph J. Luzinski	\$590.00		
Senior Managing	\$575.00 - \$590.00		
Directors			
Directors/Managing	\$320.00 - \$460.00		
Directors			
Associates/Senior	\$190.00 - \$290.00		
Associates			

³ The rates are adjusted as of January 1st of each year to reflect advancing experience, capabilities, and seniority of DSI's professionals as well as general economic factors.

- 23. DSI may from time to time add or delete staff and will file a staffing report to reflect any such changes.
- 24. In addition to compensation for professional services rendered by personnel, DSI also will be entitled to reimbursement for its reasonable costs and expenses. Such costs and expenses may include, among others, charges for messenger services, photocopying, travel expenses (coach air travel), long distance telephone charges, postage, and other charges customarily invoiced by similar firms.

Indemnification

- 25. The Engagement Letter also contains standard indemnification language with respect to DSI's services, including an agreement by the Debtors to indemnify DSI against all losses, claims, damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses including the costs, fees, expenses, and disbursements, as and when incurred, of investigating, preparing, or defending any action, suit, proceeding, or investigation arising out of or in connection with the engagement of DSI that is the subject of the Engagement Letter.
- 26. The Debtors and DSI believe that the indemnification provisions contained in the Engagement Letter are customary and reasonable for firms providing special financial or restructuring advisory services. Indeed, the indemnification provisions contain certain qualifications and limitations that are customary in this district and others. *See, e.g., In re ConnectEdu, Inc.*, Case No. 14-11238 (SCC) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 16, 2014) (order retaining chief restructuring officer and supporting firm); *In re InSight Health Servs. Holdings Corp.*, Case No. 10-16564 (AJG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 4, 2011) (order retaining bankruptcy consultants and special financial advisors); *In re Charter Commc'ns, Inc.*, Case No. 09-11435 (JMP) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Apr. 15, 2009) (order retaining restructuring advisors); *In re Paper Int'l, Inc.*, Case No.

08-13917 (AJG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Oct. 31, 2008) (order retaining crisis managers); *In re Granite Broad. Corp.*, Case No. 06-12984 (ALG) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Feb. 13, 2007) (order retaining financial advisors); *In re Dana Corp.*, Case No. 06-10354 (BRL) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 29, 2006) (order retaining financial advisors); *In re Calpine Corp.*, Case No. 05-60200 (CGM) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 27, 2006) (order retaining financial advisors); *In re Parmalat USA Corp.*, Case No. 04-11139 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 25, 2004) (order retaining crisis managers).

27. The provisions contained in the Engagement Letter, viewed in conjunction with the other terms of DSI's proposed retention, are reasonable and in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates and creditors in light of the fact that the Debtors require DSI's services to successfully reorganize. Accordingly, as part of the Application, the Debtors request that this Court approve the indemnification provisions as set forth in the Engagement Letter.

Fees and Reporting

- 28. If the Court approves the relief requested herein, DSI will file with the Court (and serve copies on the U.S. Trustee and the Creditors' Committee contemporaneously with such filing) a monthly staffing report, but will not apply to the Court for approval of amounts paid to DSI by the Debtors. Such report will include the names and functions filled of the individuals assigned to provide services to the Debtors. DSI will be paid monthly by the Debtors for its services and expenses on the terms set forth in its Engagement Letter. The Debtors will not seek authority to engage DSI or any of its affiliates as a professional under section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code in these chapter 11 cases.
- 29. Because DSI is not being employed as a professional under section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code, it will not submit fee applications pursuant to sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code. DSI will, however, file with the Court and provide notice to the U.S. Trustee

and the Creditors' Committee, reports of compensation earned and expenses incurred on at least a quarterly basis. Such reports shall summarize the services provided, identify the compensation earned by each executive officer and staff employee provided, and itemize the expenses incurred. Such compensation and expenses will be subject to Court review in the event an objection is filed.

Basis for Relief Requested

- 30. Under applicable case law in this and other jurisdictions, if a debtor's proposed use of its assets pursuant to section 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code represents a reasonable business judgment on the part of the debtor, such use should be approved. *See, e.g. Myers v. Martin (In re Martin)*, 91 F.3d 389 (3d Cir. 1996) (internal citation omitted); *Comm. Of Equity Sec. Holders v. Lionel Corp. (In re Lionel Corp.)*, 722 F.2d 1063, 1070 (2d Cir. 1983); *In re Delaware & Hudson Ry. Co.*, 124 B.R 169, 175-76 (D. Del. 1991) (stating that courts have applied the "sound business purpose" test to evaluate motions brought pursuant to section 363(b)).
- Bankruptcy courts have analyzed the propriety of a debtor-in-possession's employment of a corporate officer under section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code on numerous occasions and have determined that it is an appropriate exercise of business judgment to employ a corporate officer in such manner. *See, e.g., In re ConnectEdu, Inc.*, Case No. 14-11238 (SCC) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. June 16, 2014); *In re Laboratory Partners, Inc.*, Case No. 13-12769 (PJW) (Bankr. D. Del. Nov. 26, 2013) (authorizing retention of DSI pursuant to section 363); *In re Binder & Binder The National Social Security Disability Advocates (NY), LLC*, Case No. 14-23728 (RDD) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. January 30, 2015) [ECF No. 100]; *In re Delta Petroleum, Corp.*, Case No. 11-14006 (KJC) (Bankr. D. Del. Jan. 11, 2012); *In re Calpine Corp.*, Case No. 05-60200 (BRL) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 17, 2007) [ECF No. 3412]; *In re Mirant Corp.*, Case No.

03-46590 (DML) (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Sept. 29, 2003) [ECF No. 999]; In re Fleming Cos., Inc., Case No. 03-10945 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. June 25, 2003) [ECF No. 1698]; In re LJM2 Co-Inv., L.P., Case No. 02-38335 (SAF) (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Dec. 13, 2002) [ECF No. 96]; In re Kmart Corp., No. 02-02474 (SPS) (Bankr. N.D. Ill. May 22, 2002) [ECF No. 3459]; In re Exide Techs, Inc., Case No. 02-11125 (JCA) (Bankr. D. Del. May 10, 2002) [ECF No. 214]; In re Sharper Image Corp., No. 08-10322 (KG) (Bankr. D. Del. Apr. 23, 2008); In re Universal Building Prods., Inc., No. 10-12453 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. Aug. 4, 2010).

- 32. Here, the decision to employ DSI and retain Mr. Brandt as CRO should be authorized because it is based on the sound exercise of the business judgment of the Debtors' senior management and, ultimately, the Board. Mr. Brandt is well qualified to serve as CRO and has extensive experience either in senior management roles or as a restructuring advisor. The Debtors believe that DSI, in conjunction with Mr. Brandt in his capacity as CRO, will be able to provide services that benefit the Debtors' estates and creditors.
- 33. In view of the foregoing, the Debtors believe that the retention of DSI and Mr. Brandt as CRO is a sound exercise of the Debtors' business judgment and is in the best interests of all parties in interest in these chapter 11 cases. As such, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court authorize the retention and employment of DSI and the CRO *nunc pro tunc* to September 19, 2016.

Notice

34. Notice of this Application has been provided to all parties in interest in accordance with the procedures set forth in the *Order Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 105(a) and (d)* and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1015(c), 2002(m), and 9007 Implementing Certain Notice and Case Management Procedures, entered on June 3, 2016 [ECF No. 255]. The Debtors submit that, in

16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 15 of 63

view of the facts and circumstances, such notice is sufficient and no other or further notice need be provided.

35. No previous request for the relief sought herein has been made by the Debtors to this or any other Court.

WHEREFORE the Debtors respectfully request entry of the Proposed Order and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and appropriate.

Dated: September 26, 2016 New York, New York

/s/ Jacqueline Marcus
WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP
767 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10153
Telephone: (212) 310-8000
Facsimile: (212) 310-8007
Ray C. Schrock, P.C.
Jacqueline Marcus
Garrett A. Fail

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

Exhibit A

Brandt Declaration

16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 17 of 63

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP 767 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10153 Telephone: (212) 310-8000 Facsimile: (212) 310-8007 Ray C. Schrock, P.C. Jacqueline Marcus Garrett A. Fail

Attorneys for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

:

In re : Chapter 11

AÉROPOSTALE, INC., et al., : Case No. 16-11275 (SHL)

:

Debtors.¹ : Jointly Administered

-----X

DECLARATION OF WILLIAM A. BRANDT, JR. IN SUPPORT OF THE DEBTORS' APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a) AND 363(b) (I) AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION AND EMPLOYMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS, INC. AND (II) DESIGNATING WILLIAM A. BRANDT, JR. AS CHIEF RESTRUCTURING OFFICER TO THE DEBTORS NUNC PRO TUNC TO SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, William A. Brandt, Jr., hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the President and CEO of Development Specialists, Inc. ("*DSI*"), a restructuring and financial advisory firm that specializes in interim management, turnaround consulting, operational due diligence, creditor advisory services, and financial and operational restructuring. DSI maintains offices at 110 E. 42nd Street, Suite 1818, New York, New York 10017. I submit this declaration (the "*Brandt Declaration*") in support of the application (the

WEIL:\95874915\7\11727.0013

-

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases and the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are as follows: Aéropostale, Inc. (3880); Aéropostale West, Inc. (7013); Jimmy'Z Surf Co., LLC (0461); Aero GC Management LLC (4257); Aeropostale Procurement Company, Inc. (8518); Aeropostale Licensing, Inc. (8124); P.S. from Aeropostale, Inc. (5900); GoJane LLC (4923); Aeropostale Holdings, Inc. (7729); and Aeropostale Puerto Rico, Inc. (6477). The Debtors' corporate headquarters is located at 112 West 34th Street, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10120.

"Application"), ² of Aéropostale, Inc. and certain of its subsidiaries, as debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (collectively, the "Debtors"), for an order (i) authorizing the Debtors to employ and retain DSI to provide management and restructuring services to the Debtors and (ii) designating William A. Brandt, Jr. as Chief Restructuring Officer ("CRO") of the Debtors *nunc pro tunc* to September 19, 2016. Except as otherwise noted, I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein and, if called as a witness, I would testify competently thereto.³

- 2. DSI possesses the requisite experience to provide the Debtors with the necessary services in these chapter 11 cases. I have more than thirty-five years of experience in the practice of turnarounds and restructurings.
- 3. DSI and the Debtors executed a restructuring engagement letter on September 19, 2016. Pursuant to that engagement letter, the scope of DSI's engagement included providing the Debtors with restructuring and other advisory services (the "Engagement Letter"). A copy of the Engagement Letter is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.
- 4. Pursuant to the Engagement Letter and for purposes of these chapter 11 cases, DSI and the Debtors have agreed that I will serve as CRO. Working collaboratively with the Debtors' senior management team and Board, as well as the Debtors' other professionals, I, as CRO, along with other professional personnel from DSI staffed on these cases, will assist the Debtors with the following:
 - (a) Assist the Debtors with the transition under the Court-approved agreements between the Debtors and the members of the consortium that purchased substantially all of the Debtors' business assets, including management of the debtors' rights under and compliance with the applicable purchase agreement, agency agreement and transition services agreement(s).

² Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Application.

³ Certain of the disclosures herein relate to matters within the knowledge of other professionals at DSI and are based on information provided by them.

- (b) Implement the post-closing, pre-confirmation wind-down of the estates, including reconciliation and resolution of claims and collection of estate assets excluded from the Court-approved purchase.
- (c) Monitor and otherwise interface with the agent in connection with the store closing sales being conducted by Hilco Merchant Services and Gordon Bros.
- (d) Oversee the budget process in connection with the Debtors' use of cash collateral and payment of estate liabilities.
- (e) Assist in the further development and implementation of an amended liquidating chapter 11 plan.
- (f) Assist with such other matters as may be requested by the Board, the Debtors or the Debtors' outside counsel that fall within DSI's expertise and that are mutually agreeable.
- 5. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief, insofar as I have been able to ascertain after reasonable inquiry by myself or other DSI employees, other than in connection with this engagement, neither I, nor DSI, nor any of its managing directors, employees, agents or affiliates, has any connection with the Debtors, their significant creditors, the U.S. Trustee, or any other party with an actual or potential interest in these chapter 11 cases, or its respective attorneys or accountants, except as set forth below.
- 6. DSI is not employed by, and has not been employed by, any entity other than the Debtors in matters related to these chapter 11 cases, except as described herein.
- 7. Together with my support staff at DSI, I am well-qualified and able to continue to provide CRO-type services to the Debtors in a cost-effective, efficient, and timely manner. I agreed to assume the position of CRO and to subject myself to the jurisdiction and supervision of the Court.
- 8. From time to time, DSI has provided services, and likely will continue to provide services, to certain creditors of the Debtors and various other parties adverse to the Debtors in matters wholly unrelated to these chapter 11 cases. As described below, however, DSI has undertaken a detailed search to determine, and to disclose, whether it is providing or has

16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 20 of 63

provided, services to any significant creditor, investor, insider or other party in interest in such unrelated matters.

- 9. DSI provides services in connection with numerous cases, proceedings, and transactions unrelated to these chapter 11 cases. Those unrelated matters involve numerous attorneys, financial advisors, and creditors, some of whom may be claimants or parties with actual or potential interests in these chapter 11 cases, or may represent such parties.
- 10. DSI's personnel may have business associations with certain creditors of the Debtors unrelated to these chapter 11 cases. In addition, in the ordinary course of its business, DSI may engage counsel or other professionals in unrelated matters who now represent, or who may in the future represent, creditors or other parties in interest in these chapter 11 cases.
- 11. In connection with the preparation of this Declaration, DSI conducted a review of its (and its affiliates') contacts with the Debtors and certain entities holding large claims against or interest in the Debtors that were made reasonably known to DSI. A listing of the parties reviewed is reflected in **Exhibit 2** attached to this Declaration. DSI's review, completed under my supervision, consisted of a query of the **Exhibit 2** parties containing names of individuals and entities that are represented by DSI.
- 12. Based on the results of its review, DSI (including its affiliates) does not have a relationship with any of the parties listed on **Exhibit 2** in matters related to these chapter 11 cases. Further based on the results of its review, DSI (including its affiliates and employees) previously had a relationship with PNC Bank and Fifth Third Bank in matters unrelated to these proceedings. To the best of my knowledge, no services have been provided to these parties that involve their rights in the Debtors' cases, nor does DSI's involvement in these chapter 11 cases compromise its ability to continue such services.

- 13. As part of its diverse practice, DSI appears in numerous cases, proceedings, and transactions that involve many different professionals, including attorneys, accountants, and financial consultants, who may represent claimants and parties-in-interest in these chapter 11 cases. Further, DSI (including its affiliates) has performed, in the past, and may perform in the future, consulting services for various attorneys and law firms, and has been represented by several attorneys and law firms, some of whom may be involved in these proceedings. Based on DSI's current knowledge of the professionals involved, and to the best of my knowledge, none of these relationships creates interests materially adverse to the Debtors, and none is in connection with these chapter 11 cases.
- 14. On a going forward basis, DSI shall disclose any and all facts that may have a bearing on whether the firm, its affiliates, and/or any individuals working on the engagement hold or represent any interest adverse to the Debtors, their creditors, or other parties-in-interest.
- 15. DSI (including its affiliates) and I do not believe either of us is a "creditor" of any of the Debtors within the meaning of section 101(1) of the Bankruptcy Code. Further, neither I, DSI (including its affiliates and employees) nor any member of the DSI engagement team serving the Debtors, to the best of my knowledge, is a holder of any of the Debtors' outstanding debt, equity or preferred stock.
- 16. Each of myself and DSI is a "disinterested person" as that term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code in that DSI (including its affiliates and employees):
 - (a) Is not a creditor (including by reason of unpaid fees and expenses for prepetition services), equity security holder or insider of the Debtors;
 - (b) Is not and was not, within two (2) years before the date of the filing of these chapter 11 cases, a director, officer, or employee of the Debtors (except as noted above); and

Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document 16-11275-shl Doc 842 Pg 22 of 63

> (c) Does not have an interest materially adverse to the interest of the estates or

of any class of creditors or equity security holders, by reason of any direct or indirect relationship to, connection with, or interest in, the Debtors or

for any other reason.

17. Despite the efforts described above to identify and disclose DSI's

connections with parties-in-interest in these chapter 11 cases, DSI is unable to state with

certainty that every client relationship or other connection has been disclosed. In this regard, if

DSI discovers additional information that requires disclosure, DSI will file a supplemental

disclosure with the Court.

18. DSI has agreed to submit monthly invoices to the Debtors, and the

Debtors have requested authority to pay, in the ordinary course of business, all reasonable

amounts invoiced by DSI for fees and expenses. The range of DSI's customary hourly rates, as

charged to matters of this type, by the professionals assigned to this engagement, are referenced

in the Application.

19. DSI reserves the right to supplement this Declaration in the event that DSI

discovers any facts bearing on matters described in this Declaration regarding DSI's employment

with the Debtors.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing

is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated: September 26, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William A. Brandt, Jr.

William A. Brandt, Jr.

6

Exhibit 1

Engagement Letter

September 19, 2016

David Dick Chief Financial Officer Aeropostale, Inc. (Debtor-in Possession) 112 W 34th Street Floor 22 New York, NY 10120-2400

Re: Development Specialists, Inc. ("DSI")

Engagement Agreement

Dear Mr. Dick:

Please accept this letter as our firm's ("DSI's") formal written agreement to provide consulting services to Aeropostale, Inc. and its affiliated Debtors in Possession ("You" the "Company"), (the "Agreement"). The Agreement will become effective upon execution by duly authorized representatives of the respective parties and bankruptcy court approval.

Section 1 – Scope of Work

DSI's role will be to provide the following services to the Company:

- 1. William A. Brandt, Jr. will serve as Chief Restructuring Officer of the Company with other DSI personnel to assist Mr. Brandt in carrying out those duties and responsibilities.
- 2. Assist the Company with the transition under the Court-approved agreements between the Company and the members of the consortium, pursuant to which substantially all of the Debtors' business assets were sold, including management of the Debtors' rights under and compliance with the applicable purchase agreement, agency agreement and transition service agreement(s);
- 3. Implement the post-closing, pre-confirmation wind-down of the estates, including reconciliation and resolution of claims and collection of estate assets excluded from the Court approved purchase;
- 4. Monitor and otherwise interface with the agent in connection with the store closing sales being conducted by Hilco Merchant Services and Gordon Bros;
- 5. Oversee the budget process in connection with the Debtors' use of cash collateral and payment of estate liabilities

Mr. David Dick September 19, 2016 Page 2

- 6. Assist in the further development and implementation of an amended liquidating Chapter 11 Plan.
- 7. Assist with such other matters as may be requested by the Company or the Company's outside counsel that fall within DSI's expertise and that are mutually agreeable.

DSI will coordinate efforts with FTI Consulting, the Debtors' current financial advisors, to both (i) utilize the institutional knowledge FTI personnel have gained prior to and during the Chapter 11 cases; and (ii) avoid duplication of efforts between DSI personnel and FTI personnel.

Our ability to adequately perform the Services is dependent upon the Company timely providing reliable, accurate and complete necessary information. You acknowledge that we are not responsible for independently verifying the truth, completeness or accuracy of any information supplied to us by or on behalf of you.

DSI will report to the Board of Directors and submit its evaluation and analyses pursuant to this engagement in periodic oral and written reports. Such reports are intended to and shall constitute privileged and confidential information, and shall constitute your property. DSI acknowledges that any advice or material received from counsel to the Company or DSI and any advice and materials delivered or prepared at the request of counsel constitutes attorney work product or privileged attorney-client communications.

Section 2 – Rates and Invoicing

William A. Brandt, Jr. will serve as Chief Restructuring Officer ("CRO") of the Company. A number of DSI's personnel have experience in the above matters and may be engaged in this representation to assist Mr. Brandt in carrying out his responsibilities and functions as CRO. Although others of our staff may also be involved, we have listed below certain of the senior DSI personnel (along with their corresponding billing rates) who would likely constitute the core group for this matter.

William A. Brandt, Jr. \$100,000/month Fred C Caruso \$660.00/hour Patrick J. O'Malley \$595.00/hour Joseph J. Luzinski \$590.00/hour

Billing rates by category for other staff that may be utilized:

Senior Managing Directors \$575.00 to \$590.00/hour Directors/Managing Directors \$320.00 to \$460.00/hour Associates/Senior Associates \$190.00 to \$290.00/hour



Mr. David Dick September 19, 2016 Page 3

These rates are adjusted as of January 1st of each year to reflect advancing experience, capabilities, and seniority of our professionals as well as general economic factors.

DSI also will be entitled to reimbursement for its reasonable costs and expenses. Such costs and expenses may include, among others, charges for messenger services, overnight deliveries, photocopying, travel expenses, long distance telephone charges, postage and other charges customarily invoiced by consulting firms. Airfare for domestic flights will be charged at economy/coach fares; international flights will be charged at the business class fare.

The Company will promptly seek Bankruptcy Court approval of the retention of William A. Brandt, Jr. and DSI under sections 105(a) and 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, not under section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code. Such retention will provide that William A. Brandt, Jr. and DSI will be paid monthly in accordance with the terms of the Bankruptcy Court Order which will require the submission of periodic Compensation and Staffing Reports but will not require DSI to submit fee applications pursuant to sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code.

The monthly fee for William A. Brandt, Jr. to serve as Chief Restructuring Officer will be prorated for the initial invoice period to the extent it is for less than a full month.

Although we do not predict or warrant the outcome of any particular matters or issue, and our fees are not dependent upon such outcomes, we will perform our services with reasonable care and in a diligent and competent manner.

Section 3 – Termination

Either the Company or DSI may terminate this agreement for any reason with five business days' written notice; provided however, the Company shall be obligated to pay and/or reimburse DSI all fees and expenses accrued under this Agreement as of the effective date of the termination.

Section 4 – Relationship of the Parties, Confidentiality

DSI will provide consulting services to and for the Company, with select members of DSI, as noted above, assigned to specific roles for the benefit of the Company. These members will remain as DSI employees during the pendency of this case. Specifically, the parties intend that an independent contractor relationship will be created by this Agreement. Employees of DSI are not to be considered employees of the Company and are not entitled to any of the benefits that the Company provides for the Company's employees, unless written modification is made to this engagement agreement. DSI acknowledges and agrees that the Company may continue to retain FTI Consulting, Inc. from and after the date hereof at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.



16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 27 of 63

Mr. David Dick September 19, 2016 Page 4

The Company acknowledges that all advice (written or oral) given by DSI to the Company in connection with DSI's engagement is intended solely for the benefit and use of the Company (limited to its management and Board of Directors) in considering the transaction or subject matter to which it relates, and that no third party is entitled to rely on any such advice or communication. DSI will in no way be deemed to be providing services for any person not an express party to this letter agreement.

DSI agrees that all information not publicly available that is received by DSI from the Company in connection with this engagement or that is developed during this engagement, will be treated as confidential and will not be disclosed by DSI, except as required by Court order, or other legal process, or as may be authorized by the Company. DSI shall not be required to defend against any action to obtain an order requiring disclosure of such information, but shall instead give prompt notice of any such action to the Company, so that You may seek appropriate remedies, including a protective order. The Company shall reimburse DSI for all costs and fees (including reasonable attorney's fees and internal time devoted by DSI employees) incurred by DSI, whether during the pendency of this engagement or thereafter, relating to responding to (whether by objecting to or complying with) any subpoenas or requests for production of information or documents.

Section 5 – Indemnity, Limitation of Liability

To the fullest extent permitted under applicable law, the Company, shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend DSI, and each and every one of the personnel employed by DSI who works on this particular project, as well as DSI officers, directors, employees and agents (the "DSI Parties") from and against any and all claims, liability, loss, cost, damage or expense (including reasonable attorney's fees) asserted against it or any of its individual personnel, or incurred by DSI or its personnel, including addressing or responding to a subpoena or court order, arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, or performance under this Agreement, except where it is determined in a final judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction (not subject to further appeal) that such liability claim, loss, costs, damage or expense is the direct result of the willful misconduct, dishonesty, fraudulent act or omission, or gross negligence of any DSI personnel. Such indemnity shall survive the expiration or termination by either party of this engagement.

The DSI Parties shall not be liable to the Company, or any party asserting claims on behalf of the Company, except for direct damages found in a final determination (not subject to further appeal) by a court of competent jurisdiction to be the direct result of the bad faith, self-dealing or intentional misconduct of DSI. The DSI Parties aggregate liability, whether in tort, contract, or otherwise, is limited to the amount of fees paid to DSI for services on this engagement (the "Liability Cap"). The Liability Cap is the total limit of the DSI Parties aggregate liability for any and all claims or demands by anyone pursuant to this Agreement, including liability to the Company, to any other parties hereto, and to any others making claims relating to the work performed by DSI pursuant to this engagement letter.



Mr. David Dick September 19, 2016 Page 5

William A. Brandt, Jr. as Chief Restructuring Officer, shall be entitled to all indemnification and applicable insurance coverage available to any Officers of the Company and the Company shall take all reasonable steps to promptly implement the intent of this provision.

Notwithstanding anything in this Section 5 to the contrary, during the pendency of the Company's chapter 11 cases:

- (i) all requests by any DSI Party for the payment of indemnification, contribution or otherwise as set forth in this Engagement Letter shall be made by means of an application to the Court and shall be subject to review by the Court to ensure that payment of such indemnity conforms to the terms of this Engagement Letter and is reasonable under the circumstances of the litigation or settlement in respect of which indemnity is sought; provided that that in no event shall any DSI Party be indemnified in the case of its own gross negligence or willful misconduct; and
- (ii) in the event a DSI Party seeks reimbursement from the Company for attorneys' fees and expenses in connection with the payment of an indemnity claim pursuant to this Engagement Letter, the invoices and supporting time records from such attorneys shall be included in such DSI Party's own applications, both interim and final, and such invoices and time records shall be subject to the United States Trustee's Fee Guidelines and the approval of the Court pursuant to sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code without regard to whether such attorneys have been retained under section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code and without regard to whether such attorneys' services satisfy section 330(a)(3)(C) of the Bankruptcy Code.

Section 6 – Conflicts

By executing this Agreement, the Company specifically waives any objection, or standing to object, to the retention, in matters unrelated to the Company, of DSI by banks or other institutional lenders or debt holders, who are or whose affiliates are lenders to the Company, or bank groups which include banks who are or whose affiliates are lenders to the Company.

Section 7 – No Audit

The Company acknowledges that it is hiring DSI to assist and advise the Company in business planning and operations. DSI's engagement shall not constitute an audit, review or compilation, or any other type of financial statement reporting engagement that is subject to the rules of AICPA or other such state and national professional bodies. It is beyond the scope of our services to identify deficiencies in record keeping practices or procedures, errors or irregularities in financial statements or the Company's books and records.



16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 29 of 63

Mr. David Dick September 19, 2016 Page 6

Section 8 – Non-Solicitation

The Company agrees not to solicit, recruit or hire any employees or agents of DSI for a period of two years subsequent to the completion and/or termination of this Agreement.

Section 9 —Retention of Information provided by the Company to DSI

Regarding all documents and other materials provided by the Company to DSI, including all copies thereof, (the "Company Documents"), upon termination or expiration of the Agreement, DSI shall, at its election, either 1) return such documents to the Company 2) destroy such documents upon three days written notice to the Company or 3) treat such documents and other materials in accordance with DSI's then existing document retention policy. Should DSI elect either alternatives 1 or 2 above, DSI may retain copies of those Company Documents that it deems necessary to address potential post-termination issues, subject to complying with any confidentiality provisions in effect at the time of termination of the Agreement.

Section 10 – Survival

The provisions of this agreement relating to indemnification, limitation of liability, the non-solicitation or hiring of DSI employees, and all other provisions necessary to the enforcement of the intent of this agreement will survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

Section 11 – Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Section 12 – Entire Agreement, Amendment

This Agreement letter contains the entire understanding of the parties relating to the subject matter of this engagement letter and supersedes and is intended to nullify any other agreements, understandings or representations relating to the subject of this engagement letter. This engagement letter may not be amended or modified except in a writing signed by the parties. If you are in agreement with the terms and conditions of this engagement letter, I would ask that you indicate your acceptance of the above terms of our engagement by signing an original copy of this engagement letter on the signature lines below.

Very truly yours,		



Mr. David Dick September 20, 2016 Page 7

Very truly yours,

William A. Brandt, Jr.

AGREED AND ACKNOWLEDGED:

Aeropostale, Inc. (Debtor-in-Possession)

By:

Date:

Exhibit 2

Parties-in-Interest List

AÉROPOSTALE MASTER CONFLICTS LIST

Debtors

Aéropostale, Inc.
Aéropostale West, Inc.
Jimmy'Z Surf Co., LLC
Aero GC Management LLC
Aeropostale Procurement Company, Inc.
Aeropostale Licensing, Inc.
P.S. from Aeropostale, Inc.
GoJane LLC
Aeropostale Holdings, Inc.
Aeropostale Puerto Rico, Inc.

Debtors' Trade Names and Aliases (up to 8 years) (a/k/a/, f/k/a/, d/b/a/)

Aéropostale Aeropostale Canada, Inc. GoJane Go Jane Acquisition Corp. Jimmy'Z P.S. from Aéropostale

Affiliates of Debtors

Aeropostale Canada Corp.

Buyer

Authentic Brands Group General Growth Properties Simon Property Group Hilco Merchant Resources, LLC Gordon Brothers Retail Partners, LLC

Current Officers and Directors

Officers

Julian R. Geiger Marc D. Miller Amy Choyne David J. Dick Mark A. Dorwart Barbara Fevelo-Hoad Susan A. Martin Kenneth Ohashi Marc G. Schuback Julie Sedlock Robin Sepe

Directors

Karin Hirtler-Garvey
Ronald R. Beegle
Michael J. Cunningham
Evelyn Dilsaver
Julian R. Geiger
Kenneth Gilman
Janet E. Grove

John D. Howard

John Haugh

David B. Vermylen

Affiliations of Directors and Officers

Assumption Foundation Board

Blue Shield of California

California Physicians Service, Inc.

California State University East Bay Foundation

Excelsior Funds Trust

Goode Partners LLC

HealthEquity, Inc.

Highmark Capital Management, Inc.

Intermix

Internet Brands, Inc.

Kate Spade & Company

Limited Brands Store Operations, Inc.

Luxury Optical Holdings

Medley Capital Corporation

NACD Northern California Chapter

Nationwide Mutual Funds

Protiviti Inc.

Prudential Insurance Company of America (The)

Rachel Ashwell/Shabby Chic

Tempur Sealy International Inc.

The Commonwealth Club

UST Advisers, Inc.

Vanguard Montgomery Funds - Vanguard Market Neutral Fund

Western World Insurance Group

Women's Initiative

Zale Corporation

Former Officers and Directors (2 years)

Arthur Rubinfeld Barbara Pindar Emilia Fabricant Kent A. Kleeberger Mary Jo Pile Robert B. Chavez Stefan Kaluzny

Persons with Beneficial Equity Ownership of >5%

Susquehanna Securities

Professional Service Providers to the Debtors

Chapter 11 Professionals

Berkeley Research Group, LLC

Deloitte Tax LLP

FTI Consulting, Inc.

Great American Group, LLC

Hilco IP Services, LLC d/b/a Hilco Streambank

Miller Buckfire & Co., LLC

Prime Clerk LLC

RCS Real Estate Advisors

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated

Tiger Capital Group, LLC

Togut, Segal & Segal LLP

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Ordinary Course Professionals

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)

BDO USA, LLP

Bletry & Associes

Bourgeois Rezac Mignon

Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP

Collora LLP

Compensation and Benefits Advisory Services, LLC

Deloitte & Touche

DLA Piper LLP

Ernst & Young

Fish & Richardson P.C.

Hand Arendall LLC

Holland & Hart LLP

Jackson Lewis P.C.

Jimenez Molino y Moreno

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

Kipness & Associates

McConnell Valdes LLC

Mercer

Minden Gross LLP

Mirandah Asia

MLM Consulting

Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Sandler Travis & Rosenberg

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

SG Risk, LLC

Sills Cummis & Gross P.C.

Vosemberg –Vretos Law Office

White and Williams LLP

Willis Towers Watson

Zacarias & Fernandez

Zurcher Lawyers

Known Professional Service Providers to the Non-Debtor Parties-in-Interest

Areya Holder Aurzada

Aria Partners, G.P.

Atlas Capital Group, LLC

Ballard Spahr LLP

Belkin Burden Wenig & Goldman, LLP

Bennet Jones LLP

Blank Rome LLP

Brown Rudnick LLP

Buchalter Nemer, A Professional Corporation

Clark Hill PLC

Connolly Gallagher LLP

Covington Gateway Acquisition, LLC

CRA Revenue Agency

Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti, LLP and Patras Williams, LLC

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Dentons US LLP

Department of Justice

Dickinson Wright PLLC

DLA Piper LLP (US)

Duane Morris LLP

Farrell Fritz, P.C

Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

Fox Rothschild LLP

Frost Brown Todd LLC

Greer, Herz & Adams, LLP

Goodkin & Lynch LLP

Goulston & Storrs PC

Holland & Knight LLP

Horack Talley Pharr & Lowndes, P.A.

Kay D. Brock, Assistant Travis County Attorney

Kelley Drye & Warren LLP

Kessler & Collins, P.C.

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Kurtzman Steady, LLC

LeClairRyan, a Professional Corporation

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP

Liner LLP

Locke Lord LLP

Malfitano Partners

McLean & Kerr LLP

McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, PC

Meyers, Rodbell & Rosenbaum, P.A.

Menter, Rudin & Trivelpiece, P.C.

Mirick, O'Connell, DeMallie & Lougee, LLP

Missouri Department of Revenue

Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP

Nold Muchinsky PLLC

Office of the Tax Collector

Oklahoma County Treasurer

Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP

Patras Williams, LLC

Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP

Paul Hastings LLP

Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P

Pick & Zabicki LLP

Price Meese Shulman & D'Arminio, P.C.

Proskauer Rose LLP

Province, Inc.

Ramco-Gershenson Properties, L.P.

Riddell Williams P.S.

Riemer & Braunstein LLP

Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti LLP

Robinson Brog Leinwand Greene Genovese & Gluck PC

Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C.

Schiff Hardin LLP

Spector & Johnson, PLLC

State of New York Attorney General

Strikeman Elliott LLP

Texas Attorney General

The Cafaro Company

Thompson & Knight LLP
TN Attorney General's Office, Bankruptcy Division
Togut, Segal & Segal LLP
Torys LLP
Trevett Cristo Salzer & Andolina P.C.
Ulmer & Berne LLP
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

DIP Agent

Crystal Financial LLC

ABL Credit Agreement Parties and Known Lenders

Bank of America, N.A. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated Wells Fargo Bank, National Association

Term Loan Agreement Parties and Known Lenders

Aero Investors, LLC Sycamore Partners TSAM Holdings, Limited

Unsecured Creditors Committee

LF Sourcing (Millwork) LLC Hansae Co. Ltd. R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co. AT&T GGP Limited Partnership Simon Property Group, Inc. WP Glimcher, Inc.

Counterparties to Licensing Agreements

Apparel FZCO
Arvind Lifestyle Brands Limited
Arvind Limited
Central Sport International, Inc.
Distribuidora Liverpool, S.A. De C.V.
Genc Mağaza A.Ş.
Genc Mağazalari A.Ş.
Montreal PTE Ltd.
PT Mitra Adiperkasa TBK
Q&A Retail Company
Shuz 4 U International Ltd.

Sociedad Comercial Grupo YES SPA Stores Specialists, Inc. Top Trends, S.A.

Significant Vendors

A Classic Time Watch Co.

Allure Jewelry & Accessories

American Distribution Inc.

American Express

Ampac Plastics Inc.

Alameda Produce Market, LLC

Apparel Manufacturing Dv Jeanjer

Apparel MFG DV Jeanjer LLC

Aptos Inc.

AT&T

Ballet Group Inc.

Bernardo MFG

Berry Jewelry

Bethany Mota Global LLC

BI Worldwide

Boom LLC

Ceridian Employer Service

Champion Energy Services LLC

C-Life Group Ltd.

Collective Digital Studio LP

Contract Logistics Inc.

CPG Partners, LP

Digital Color Concepts

eBay Enterprise Inc.

Elite Investigations Ltd.

ESRT 112 West 34th Street LP

Excel Odessa LLC

Facility Source Inc.

Fantaseyes

Fiesta Jewelry

Final Frontier Corporation

First Data Corp

Flexfit LLC

Flexprint Inc.

Forward Air Solutions Inc.

Genesis Industries

GGP Ala Moana LLC

Gilbert Companies

Grady Travis Tadlock, III

GSCM LLC

GTL International LLC

Hansae Co. Ltd.

Hennegan

Hypnotic Hats

IBM Corporation

iHeartMedia

Imagine Print Solutions Inc.

Integrity Retail Distribution

JG Elizabeth II LLC

Jordache

KIE & KIE World CO, Inc.

Kimera International Inc.

Koex LLC

KRG Enterprises, Inc.

LF Sourcing Millwork LLC

Liberty Mutual Group

Lit - Northend, LLC

Louise Paris, Ltd.

MGF Sourcing US LLC a/k/a TSAM (Delaware) LLC

Mias Fashion Mfg. Co. Inc.

Mias Fashion Mfg Inc

Microsoft Licensing GP

Microsoft Online, Inc.

MOAC Mall Holdings LLC

MUST USA / MGF

National Logistics Service

O'Donnell Corporation

Oracle America, Inc.

Pac Operating Ltd Partner

Playnetwork Inc.

Process Displays Co.

Production Services Associates

Queens Center SPE LLC

Radial, Inc. (f/k/a ebay Enterprise, Inc. and GSI Commerce Solutions, Inc.)

Retailer Flooring Solutions, Inc.

RNOT LLC

Sae-A Trading Co., Ltd.

Schwarz Supply Source

Security Resources, Inc.

Shorr Packaging Corp.

SLG Chubb 125 LLC

Special Dispatch of California, Inc.

St. Paul Travelers

Tec Leaseholds Limited

Titanium Marketing

Toshiba Global Commerce

Tote Fashion Int'l Ltd

Tote Fashion Int'l Co., Ltd

Tyco Integrated Security LLC

UPS

VNO 100 West 33rd Street LLC

WIS International

#4836, Retail Prop. Trust

1515 Broadway Owner LLC

1515 Broadway Retail LLC

Top 40 Unsecured Creditors (Consolidated)

LF Sourcing Millwork LLC

Hansae CO LTD

LF Sourcing (MWK) – SAT (Legal Name: LI & Fung SAE-A)

Mia's Fashion MFG CO INC

Tote Fashion Int'l LTD

LF Sourcing (MWK) – GES (Legal Name: LI & Fung – GES)

Apparel MFG DV Jeanjer LLC

Bethany Mota

MGF Sourcing US LLC (Legal Name: TSAM Holdings Limited)

Taubman

BBASE IDG LTD

General Growth (Legal Name: General Growth Properties)

KOEX LLC

American Express

Flexfit LLC

Aptos Inc. (Legal Name: Aptos Inc. FKA Epicor RSG (US), Inc.)

Vornado (Legal Name: Vornado Realty Trust)

Westfield

GTL International LLC

Rouse Properties, Inc.

CBL & Associates Management Inc.

Triple Five (Legal Name: Triple Five Group of Companies)

Titanium Marketing

IBM Corporation

Allure Eyeware

Forest City Enterprises (Legal Name: Forest City Realty Trust)

Codigo

Ceridian Employer Service

Cafaro Company

Toshiba Global Commerce

Ebay Enterprise Inc. (Legal Name: GSI Commerce Solutions Inc.)

Horizon Properties Group

Price Waterhouse Coopers, LLC

Lenovo US Inc.

Simon Property Group

LF Sourcing (MWK) – GDT (Legal Name: Li & Fung – Guangdong)

Auditions Fashion Inc. (Legal Name: Sang Jin Park) American Hanger Jireh Clothing Mertz Productions LLC

Material Lienholders

Asserted Lienholders

AT&T Capital Services, Inc.

Bank of America, N.A.

Criminal Court of the City of New York

De Lage Laden Financial Services, Inc.

General Electric Capital Corporation

IBM Credit LLC

NFS Leasing, Inc.

People's United Bank

Pom-College Station, LLC

U.S. Bank Equipment Finance

U.S. Bank Equipment Finance, a division of U.S. National Association

Aero Investors, LLC

Fleet Retail Finance Inc. f/k/a Bank Boston Retail Finance Inc.

Fleet Retail Group, LLC, successor-in-interest to Fleet Retail Group, Inc., f/k/a Fleet

Retail Finance Inc., as Agent

Shippers and Warehousers (Potential Lienholders)

Accela Worldwide Logistics Inc.

Advanced Distribution Services

American Fast Freight

Ann Arbor Distribution, Inc.

Caribex Worldwide

Crowley Puerto Rico Services

Demar Logistics

DHX Dependable Hawaiian Express

DMS Express Inc.

Eagle Express Inc.

eBay Enterprise Inc.

Exel Freight Connect Inc.

Fitzmark Inc.

Forward Air Solutions Inc.

Freight Systems Inc.

Freight Systems Inc. SLC

Gilbert Companies

Gilbert Express

Gregory Greenfield & Associate

GSI Commerce Solutions, Inc.

Integrity Retail Distribution

Interstate Distributor Co

Midland Courier

Mode Transportation LLC

National Logistics Service

Orbis Logistics

Palmer Dedicated Logistics

Performance Team

TOTE Maritime Puerto Rico

QRC Logistics

Special Dispatch Inc.

Special Dispatch of California

Specialty Transport Solutions

VSS Carriers Inc.

Landlords

1515 Broadway Fee Owner LLC

20 VIC Management Inc.

474 Fulton Owner LLC

5060 E. Monclair Plaza Lane Owner LLC

Allied Properties

Aronov Realty Management

Avison Young

Avenue Webb Gin, LLC

AWE Next

AWE Talisman

Bayer Properties LLC

Bellevue Square, LLC

Bentall Kennedy

Bloomfield Holdings, LLC

BRE RC Las Palmas TX, LP

Causeway LLC

Cadillac Fairview

Cafaro Management Company

Cafaro Northwest Partnership dba South Hill Mall;

Cambridgeside Galleria Associates Trust

Cameron Corporation

Capref Brookwood Village LLC

Capref Burbank LLC

Capref Lloyd II LLC

Carousel Center Company, L.P.

Carlyle Development Group

CBL & Associates Management Inc.

CBRE

CenterCal Properties LLC

Champlain Centre North, LLC

Charles Company

CNL Commerical Real Estate Inc

Codding Enterprises

Collarmele Partners

Cominar Real Estate Investment Trust

Continuum Partners

Cord Meyer Development

Covington Property Management, LLC

Craig Realty Group

Crombie REIT

Crossgates Mall General Company NewCo, LLC

Crystal Run NewCo, LLC

Cypress Equities

DDR

Dimond Center Holdings

Dunhill Partners

Eagle Ridge Mall

Easton Town Center II, LLC

EklecCo NewCo LLC

Ershig Properties

Excel Property Group

ESRT 112 West 34th Street, L.P.

Faison

Federal Realty Investment Trust

Finard Properties LLC

FOM Puerto Rico, S.E.

Forbes Company (The)

Forest City Enterprises

Foursquare Properties

G&I VII Retail Carriage LLC

GEM Realty Capital, Inc.

Gemini Property Management

General Growth Properties

Gilad Development

Glimcher

Governor's Square Company dba Governor's Square Mall

Gran Plaza

Gregory Greenfield & Assoc Ltd Advisors

Gumberg Asset Mgmt. Corp.

Hamburg Place

Harlem Irving LLC

HCW Private Development

Hendon Properties

Horizon Properties Group

Holyoke Mall Company, L.P.

Hull Storey Gibson Companies, LLC

Huntington Mall Company dba Huntington Mall

Inland Commercial Real Estate Services, LLC

Inland National Real Estate Svcs LLC

IREIT Flowood Dogwood, L.L.C.

Irvine Company

Ivanhoe Cambridge

Jim Wilson & Assoc.

JPMCCM 2001-CIBC2 Collin Creek Mall, LLC

JPMG Manassas Mall Owner LLC

Jones Lang LaSalle

Katz & Assoc.

Kemper Development Company

Kentucky Oaks Mall Company dba Kentucky Oaks Malls

Krausz Companies Inc.

Kravco Company LLC

Lad Back Nogales LLC

Lakeside Mall

Las Palmas RioCan LP

Lerner

Lormax Stern Development Co

Macerich Company (The)

Madison Marquette

Mall at Bay Plaza (The)

Marion Plaza, Inc. dba Eastwood Mall

Mason Asset Management

Matthew Mason

Meadowbrook Mall Company dba Meadowbrook Mall

Memorial City Mall Mall, LP

Metropolis Lifestyle Center, LLC

MG Herring Group

Mid-America

Mirormar

Moonbeam Capital Investment, LLC

Morguard Investments Limited

Morrison Companies

Mountain Development Corp.

Namdar Realty Group

Nasher

NED Management Limited Partnership

New Westgate Mall LLC

Newage PHM, LLC

Northgate Associates

Northgate Mall

North Riverside Park Associates

Ohio Valley Mall Company dba Ohio Valley Mall

Olshan Properties

OVP Management

Oxford Properties Group

Pacific Retail Capital Partners

Plaza Associates

Plaza Las Americas, Inc.

PM Realty Group

Poag & McEwen

Poag Shopping Centers LLC

Poughkeepsie Galleria LLC

Preit Services LLC

Prestige Properties & Dev Inc

Prism

Pyramid

Pyramid Walden Company, L.P.

Ramco Gershenson

RD Management LLC

Red Legacy

RioCan

RioCan (America) Mgmt, Inc.

RioCan Management Inc

River Center Mall

Riverwalk Marketplace NO, LLC

Rouse Properties

Rouse Properties, Inc.

Saucon Valley Lifestyle Center, L.P

Sandusky Mall Company dba Sandusky Mall

Sangertown Square, L.L.C.

Salmon Run Shopping Center, L.L.C.

Schottenstein Property Group

Shop Companies

Simon Premium Outlets

Simon Property Group

Singerman Real Estate LLC

SLG 125 Chubb LLC

Smart Centres

Southgate Mall Associates LP

Spectrum Capital LLC

Spinoso

Spinoso Management Group LLC

Spinoso Real Estate Group

Spotsylvania Mall Company dba Spotsylvania Towne Center

ST Mall Owner LLC

Starwood Retail

Starwood Retail Partners LLC

Starwood Retail Property Mgmt, LLC

Steadfast

Steiner and Associates, Inc.

Sterling Retail Services Inc

Stirling Properties

Stoltz

StreetMAC Asset Managers, LLC

Tanger Properties

Tanger Properties, L.P.

Taubman

Tejon Industrial Corporation

The Feil Organization

The Woodmont Company

Towne Square Mall, LLC

Trademark Properties

Tri-County Mall Property Mgmt LLC

Triple Five

Turnberry Associates

UBS Realty Investors LLC

UCR Asset Services

Urban Retail Properties

Urbancal Oakland Mall, LLC

USPG Portfolio Five LLC

Valley Hills Mall LLC

Valley West Mall

Vintage Capital Grp

Vestar Orchard Town Center, L.L.C.

Vintange Real Estate LLC

Village at Sandhill, LLC

VNO 100 West 33rd Street LLC

Vornado

Warwick Mall LLC

Was Group

Weingarten Realty

West Acres Development

Westfield

Wilder

Wilmorite

WO Owner LLC

Woodbury Corporation

Woodmont Company

YTC Mall Owner, LLC

Zamias

Zona Rosa Development, LLC

Depository Banks

Amarillo National

American Bank

16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 47 of 63

American National Bank

American Savings Bank

Ameris

Amerisery Financial

Arvest Bank

Associated Bank

Astoria Federal Savings Bank

Athens First Bank & Trust Company

BB&TBank

Banco Popular

Bancorp South

Bangor Savings Bank

Bank Champaign

Bank Midwest

Bank North, N.A.

Bank of America

Bank of Colorado

Bank of Hawaii

Bank of Louisiana

Bank of Ocean City

Bank of Oklahoma

Bank of the West

Banknorth

BB&T

BBVA Compass

BMO Harris

Bremer Bank

Business First Bank

Capital City

Capital One

Centennial

Central Bank of Boone County

Centrue

Chemical Bank

Chemung Canal Trust Co.

Citibank

Citizens Bank

Columbus Bank & Trust

Comerica Bank

Commerce

Community Bank N.A.

Compass Bank

Dollar Bank

Exchange Bank of Alabama

Farmers' State Bank

Fidelity Deposit & Discount Bank

16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 48 of 63

Fifth Third Bank

First American

First Bank & Trust

First Bank of Colorado

First Bank of Tennessee

First Citizens

First Citrus Bank

First Commonwealth

First Community Bank

First Federal Savings

First Financial Bank

First Interstate

First National Bank

First National of Mercersburg

First Niagara

First Sentry

First Tennessee

First Westroads Bank

FirstMerit

Fifth Third

Frost Bank

Hamilton State

Hancock Bank

Harris Bank

Hickory Point Bank

Huntington Bank

Huntington National Bank

IBC Bank

JP Morgan Chase

Key Bank

Lafayette Bank and Trust

Legacy Bank of Texas

Liberty Bank

Liberty Federal Savings & Loan Association

LIT-Northend, LLC

Lone Star National Bank

M&T Bank

Main Source Bank

MB Financial

Metropolitan Bank

MidSouth Bank

Monroe Bank & Trust

NBT

Northway Bank

Northwest Savings Bank

Old National Bank

16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 49 of 63

Peoples United

Pinnacle

Plains Capital Bank

PNC Bank

Premier Bank

Prosperity Bank

Queenstown Bank of Maryland

RBC

Regions Bank

Salem Five Bank

Santander

South State

SouthBank

Southern Michigan Bank & Trust

Sovereign Bank

Star Financial

Sun Trust

Suntrust Bank

Susquehanna

TCF National Bank

TD Bank

TD Banknorth

Texas Bank & Trust

The Bank of Delmarva

Town & Country Bank

Towne Bank

Tri Counties Bank

Trust Mark

Trustco Bank

Trustmark

Tuscola National

UMB Bank

Union Bank of California

Union State Bank

United Bank

United Community Bank

United National Bank

US Bank

Wachovia

Washington Federal

Wayne Bank

Wells Fargo

Wilson Bank & Trust

Wrentham Cooperative Bank

Significant Utilities

Alabama Power Co.

Alliant Energy

American Electric Power

Arizona Public Service Company

Autoridad de Energia

Bell Canada

Borough of South River Utilities

Commonwealth Edison Company

ConEd

Con Edison

Connecticut Light and Power Company

Constellation Energy Services, Inc.

Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.

Consumers Energy

Delmarva Power

Direct Energy Business

Duke Energy

Duke Energy Progress

Energyworks Lancaster, LLC

Entergy

Eversource

Florida Power & Light Company

Georgia Power Company

Gulf Power Company

HECO / Hawaiian Electric

Imperial Irrigation District

Jersey Central Power & Light Company

Liberty Power Holdings LLC

Memphis Light, Gas & Water

Metropolitan Edison Company

Monongahela Power Company

National Grid

Ohio Edison Company

Orlando Utilities

Orlando Utilities Commission

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Pennsylvania Electric Company

Pennsylvania Power Company

Pepco

Potomac Edison Company

Public Service Company of New Hampshire

Public Service Electric and Gas Company

Public Service Electric and Gas Company Long Island LLC

Rocky Mountain Power

San Diego Gas & Electric Company

Tampa Electric

The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company

The Illuminating Company

Toledo Edison Company

Tucson Electric Power Company

TXU Energy

UNS Electric, Inc.

USNE Electric, Inc.

West Penn Power Company

Western Massachusetts Electric Company

Xcel Energy

Insurers and Insurance Brokers

American National Insurance Company

AmWins

Aon

ARC Excess & Surplus

Beazley

C N A

Caitlin

Continental Casualty

CRC Insurance

Endurance American Insurance Co.

Federal Insurance

Great American

Illinois National Insurance Co.

J. Jaramillo Insurance, Inc.

J. Smith Lanier & Co.

Liberty Mutual

Lloyds

Marsh & McLennan

Navigators

North Dakota Workforce Safety and Insurance

Oficina Regional De San Juan

Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation

QBE

RLI Insurance Company

Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

Starr Indemnity & Liability

Sterling & Sterling

Triple S Propiedad, Inc.

US Specialty

Washington State Department of Labor and Industry

WCB - Workers Compensation Board - Alberta

WCB - Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba

Westchester Fire

Woodruf-Sawyer & Co.

Worker's Compensation Board of Nova Scotia in partnership with Canada Revenue

Agency

Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission of Newfondland & Labrador

WorkSafeBC

WorkSafeNB

WSIB Workplace Insurance & Safety Board

Wyoming Department of Workforce Services

Zurich

Beneficiaries and Issuers of Letters of Credit and Surety Bonds

Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Government of Puerto Rico

International Fidelity Insurance Company

Puerto Rico Electric Power

Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority

Southern California Edison Company

SureTec Insurance Company

VNO 100 West 33rd St LLC

Major Third Party Administrators

Anthem BCBS

ArmadaCare

Blue Cross/Blue Shield

CashStar

Ceridian HCM, Inc.

First Data Prepaid Services (aka ValueLink)

Health Equity

Merrill Lynch

MetLife

The Travelers Indemnity Company

Parties to Significant Litigation

Alexis Brown

Captain's Club Apparel, Inc.

Carmen D. Trinidad-Rodriguez

City of Providence

Connie Blondin

Deborah G Simpkins

G&I VII Reno Operating, LLC

Icon Laser Solutions, LLC

J. Robert Arbuthnot

Janet Webster

Klauber Brothers, Inc.

Lexmark International, Inc.

Marie Bonamassa

Michael Allen

Picture Patents, LLC

Ralphael Aleman

Renda Greenhill

Standard Fabrics International, Inc.

Susan A. Sellick

Temeka Adams

University Mall, LLC

Stern Tannenbaum & Bell LLP

ERT 112 West 34th Street, L.P

Homewinds Foundation

Schoenborn Brittany Grace

Abbott Grace

137 Emmut Properties LLC

Scheichet & Davis P C

Doreen Properties LLC

Refoua Maurice

Nara Bank

COR IBSs Inc.

<u>United States Trustee, Judges, and Court Contacts for the Southern District of New York</u> (and Key Staff Members)

<u>United States Bankruptcy Judges for the S.D.N.Y.</u>

Honorable Cecelia G. Morris

Honorable Stuart M. Bernstein

Honorable Shelley C. Chapman

Honorable Robert D. Drain

Honorable James L. Garrity

Honorable Robert E. Gerber

Honorable Martin Glenn

Honorable Robert E. Grossman

Honorable Sean H. Lane

Honorable Michael E. Wiles

Honorable Mary Kay Vyskocil

Office of the United States Trustee

William K. Harrington, U.S. Trustee

Linda A. Riffkin, Assistant U.S. Trustee

Susan Arbeit, Trial Attorney

Susan Golden, Trial Attorney

Brian S. Masumoto, Trial Attorney

Richard C. Morrissey, Trial Attorney

Serene Nakano, Trial Attorney

Andrea B. Schwartz, Trial Attorney

Paul K. Schwartzberg, Trial Attorney

Andy Velez-Rivera, Trial Attorney

Greg M. Zipes, Trial Attorney

Victor Abriano, Bankruptcy Analyst

Danny A. Choy, Bankruptcy Analyst

Nadkarni Joseph, Bankruptcy Analyst

Anna M. Martinez, Bankruptcy Analyst

Mary V. Moroney, Bankruptcy Analyst

Sylvester Sharp, Bankruptcy Analyst

Catletha Brooks, Legal Assistant (Bankruptcy/OA)

Ercilia A. Mendoza, Legal Assistant (Bankruptcy/OA)

Amanda Cassara, Paralegal (Bankruptcy)

Maria Catapano, Paralegal Specialist

Myrna R. Fields, Paralegal Specialist

Ilusion Rodriguez, Paralegal Specialist

Clerk's Office

Vito Genna, Clerk of Court

Una O'Boyle, Chief Deputy

Annya Acosta, Operations Manager

Brent Bush, Case Administrator/Editor

Deirdra Cantrell, Case Administrator

Amanda Ho, Case Administrator

Mary Lopez, Case Administrator

Beverly Richards, Case Administrator/Editor

Maria Rodriguez-Castillo, Case Administrator

Anatin Rouzeau, Appeals/Judgment Clerk

Aurea Suarez, Case Administrator

Jessica Gomez, Asst. Ops. Manager, Intake Operations

Regulatory Agencies (Federal, State, Local)

Federal Canadian Governmental Authority

Significant Taxing & Licensing Authorities (Federal, State, Local)

Arlington ISD

Bexar County, TX

Bell County

Bowie Central Appraisal District

Broward County Revenue, Collection Bureau

Burleson ISD

California Board of Equalization

Canada Revenue Agency

16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 55 of 63

Central Appraisal District of Taylor County

Charles County Maryland, Prince George's County

City of Calgary City Cashier

City of El Paso, TX

City of Garland

City of Houston

City of Waco and/or Waco independent School District

Clear Creek Independent School District

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Revenue

Comptroller of Maryland, Revenue Administration Division

Connecticut Commissioner of Revenue Services

County of Brazos, Texas

County of Denton, Texas

County of Hays, Texas

County of Hill, Texas

County of Imperial, California

County of Williamson, Texas

Crowley ISD

Cypress - Fairbanks ISD

Dallas County Tax Assessor-Collector

District of Columbia Treasurer, Office of Tax and Revenue

Ector CAD, TX

Florida Department of Revenue

Fort Bend County, TX

Galveston County, TX

City of Garland

Georgia Department of Revenue

City of Grapevine

Garland ISD

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD

Harris County Tax Assessor/Collector

Harris County, TX

Hawaii Department of Taxation

Hidalgo County

Humble Independent School District

Idaho State Tax Commission

Illinois Department of Revenue

Indiana Department of Revenue

Iowa Department of Revenue and Finance

Judson ISD, TX

Kansas Department of Revenue

Kentucky State Treasurer, Department of Revenue

Louisiana Department of RevenueLubbock Central Appraisal District Midland County

Maine Revenue Services

Michigan Treasury Collection Division

Midland Central Appraisal District

16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 56 of 63

Minnesota Department of Revenue

Mississippi Department of Revenue

Missouri Director of Revenue, Taxation Division

Montgomery County, TX

Nebraska Department of Revenue

New Jersey Sales Tax

North Carolina Department of Revenue

North Dakota Office of State Tax Commissioner

NYS Sales Tax Processing

Ohio Treasurer of State, Ohio Department of Taxation

Oklahoma County Treasurer

Oklahoma Tax Commission

Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

Puerto Rico Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury

Rhode Island Tax Administrator, Division of Taxation

San Bernardino County, Division of Weights & Measures

San Diego County Treasurer, Tax Collector

South Carolina Department of Revenue

South Dakota State Treasurer

Spring Branch Independent School District

State of Arkansas, Department of Finance & Administration

State of Michigan, Department of Treasury

State of Nevada Sales/Use Tax

State of New Mexico, Taxation and Revenue Department

Tarrant County, Tax Assessor/Collector

Tennessee Department of Revenue

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Texas State Comptroller

Travis County

Utah State Tax Commission

Vermont Department of Taxes

Virginia Department of Taxation

Washington State Department of Revenue

West Virginia Tax Department

Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Woodbridge Fire Prevention Bureau

Wyoming Department of Revenue

Other Significant Creditors, Counterparties to Significant Contracts, or Potential Parties in Interest

American Eagle

Arlington ISD

Authentic Brands

Burleson ISD

Crowley ISD

DW Partners

16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 57 of 63

Garland ISD
Grapevine-Colleyville ISD
Great American Group, LLC
Iconix Brand Group
Marquis Brands
Milberg Factors, Inc.
PREIT Services, LLC
PREIT-Rubin, Inc.
Sequential Brand Group
Tiger Capital Group, LLC
Versa Capital
Vintage Capital Group, LLC

Exhibit B

Proposed Order

16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 59 of 63

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X

In re : Chapter 11

AÉROPOSTALE, INC., et al., : Case No. 16-11275 (SHL)

:

Debtors. : Jointly Administered

· -----X

ORDER PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a) AND 363(b) (I) AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION AND EMPLOYMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS, INC. AND (II) DESIGNATING WILLIAM A. BRANDT, JR. AS CHIEF RESTRUCTURING OFFICER TO THE DEBTORS *NUNC PRO TUNC* TO SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

Upon consideration of the application (the "Application") ² of Aéropostale, Inc. and certain of its subsidiaries, as debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (collectively, the "Debtors"), pursuant to sections 105(a) and 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code for entry of an order authorizing the Debtors to employ and retain Development Specialists, Inc. ("DSI") to provide management and restructuring services and to designate William A. Brandt, Jr. as Chief Restructuring Officer (the "CRO") for the Debtors in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Engagement Letter, nunc pro tunc to September 19, 2016, all as more fully set forth in the Application; and upon the Declaration of William A. Brandt (the "Brandt Declaration"); and the Court being satisfied that each of DSI and the Chief Restructuring Officer is a disinterested person and represents no interest adverse to the Debtors' estates in the matters with respect to which DSI is to be employed; and the Court

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases and the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are as follows: Aéropostale, Inc. (3880); Aéropostale West, Inc. (7013); Jimmy'Z Surf Co., LLC (0461); Aero GC Management LLC (4257); Aeropostale Procurement Company, Inc. (8518); Aeropostale Licensing, Inc. (8124); P.S. from Aeropostale, Inc. (5900); GoJane LLC (4923); Aeropostale Holdings, Inc. (7729); and Aeropostale Puerto Rico, Inc. (6477). The Debtors' corporate headquarters is located at 112 West 34th Street, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10120.

² Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Application.

having jurisdiction to decide the Application and the relief requested therein in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(a)-(b) and 1334(b) and *Amended Standing Order of Reference M-431*, dated January 31, 2012 (Preska, C.J.); and consideration of the Application and the relief requested therein being a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and venue being proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and notice of the Application having been given as provided in the Application; and such notice having been adequate and appropriate under the circumstances; and it appearing that no other or further notice need be provided; and the Court having found and determined that the relief sought in the Application is in the best interests of the Debtors, their respective estates and creditors, and all parties in interest, and that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Application establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Application is granted, as set forth below.
- 2. The Debtors are hereby authorized pursuant to sections 105(a) and 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code to employ and retain DSI to provide services in these chapter 11 cases under the terms and conditions set forth in the Application, the Brandt Declaration, and the Engagement Letter, *nunc pro tunc* to September 19, 2016.
- 3. The Debtors are authorized pursuant to sections 105(a) and 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code to appoint William A. Brandt, Jr. as CRO in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Application, the Brandt Declaration, and the Engagement Letter.
- 4. Except as set forth herein, the terms and conditions of the Engagement Letter are reasonable and are approved.

- 5. DSI and William A. Brandt, Jr. shall not act in any other capacity (for example, and without limitation, as a financial advisor, claims agent/claims administrator, or investor/acquirer) in connection with these chapter 11 cases.
- 6. DSI and Mr. Brandt shall act under the direction, control, and guidance of the Board and shall serve at the Board's pleasure.
- 7. In the event that the Debtors seek to have DSI personnel assume executive officer positions that are different than the positions disclosed in the Application, or to materially change the terms of the engagement by either modifying the functions of personnel or altering or expanding the scope of the engagement, DSI shall disclose such additional positions and/or material changes in function or scope in its employment in its staffing report. For a period of three years after the conclusion of the engagement, DSI shall not make any investments in the Debtors or reorganized Debtors where DSI has been engaged.
- 8. No principal, employee, or independent contractor of DSI and its affiliates shall serve as a director of any of the Debtors during the pendency of these chapter 11 cases.
- 9. DSI shall receive compensation as set forth in the Application and the Engagement Letter. DSI shall file with this Court a report of staffing on the engagement for the previous month and provide notice to the U.S. Trustee and the Creditors' Committee. Such report shall include the names and functions filled of the individuals assigned. All staffing shall be subject to review by the Court in the event an objection is filed.
- 10. DSI shall file with the Court, and provide notice to the U.S. Trustee and the Creditors' Committee, reports of compensation earned and expenses incurred on a quarterly basis. Such reports shall contain summary charts that describe the services provided, identify the compensation earned by each executive officer and staff employee provided, and itemize the

expenses incurred. All compensation shall be subject to review by this Court in the event an objection is filed.

- 11. The indemnification provisions as set forth in the Engagement Letter are hereby approved. The Debtors are permitted to indemnify those persons serving as executive officers, including William A. Brandt, Jr., on the same terms as provided to the Debtors' other officers and directors under the corporate bylaws and applicable state law, along with insurance coverage under the Debtors' D&O policy.
- 12. Notwithstanding anything in Section 5 of the Engagement Letter to the contrary, during the pendency of these chapter 11 cases:
 - (i) all requests by DSI for the payment of indemnification, contribution or otherwise as set forth in this Engagement Letter shall be made by means of an application to the Court and shall be subject to review by the Court to ensure that payment of such indemnity conforms to the terms of this Engagement Letter and is reasonable under the circumstances of the litigation or settlement in respect of which indemnity is sought; *provided that* that in no event shall any DSI personnel be indemnified in the case of its own gross negligence or willful misconduct; and
 - (ii) in the event DSI seeks reimbursement from the Debtors for attorneys' fees and expenses in connection with the payment of an indemnity claim pursuant to this Engagement Letter, the invoices and supporting time records from such attorneys shall be included in such application, both interim and final, and such invoices and time records shall be subject to the U.S. Trustee's Fee Guidelines and the approval of the Court pursuant to sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code without regard to whether such attorneys have been retained under section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code and without regard to whether such attorneys' services satisfy section 330(a)(3)(C) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 13. To the extent that there may be any inconsistency between the terms of the Application, the Engagement Letter, and this Order, the terms of this Order shall govern.
- 14. The terms and conditions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

16-11275-shl Doc 842 Filed 09/26/16 Entered 09/26/16 20:55:04 Main Document Pg 63 of 63

15. The Debtors are authorized to take all action necessary to carry out this

Order.

16. This Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters

arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and/or enforcement of this Order.

Dated: October _____, 2016 New York, New York

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE